



News from

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Office of University Relations / Washington, D.C. 20052 / (202) 994-6460

MAILING DATE: January 6, 1987

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HISTORIAN VINCENT HARDING TO RECEIVE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MEDAL

Vincent J. Harding, historian, theologian and Martin Luther King Jr. authority, will receive the second annual **Martin Luther King Jr. Medal** from The George Washington University, President Lloyd H. Elliott has announced.

The medal will be presented at the University's annual **Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation at 7:30 p.m. Monday, January 18**, in Lisner Auditorium (730 21st Street, NW).

Harding's award will be one of two specially commissioned medals to be presented on Dr. King's birthday; the second will be awarded to a GW student. The student medal-winner will be announced during the ceremony.

Both recipients have been chosen on the basis of their commitment to the ideals for which Dr. King lived and died--personal integrity, ethical and religious reflection, community service, integration, peace and non-violence.

Harding, author of "**There is a River**," the first of a three-volume history of the black struggle for freedom in the United States, and "**The Other American Revolution**," is professor of religion and social transformation at The Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colo.

An expert on Afro-American history, Harding has lectured, written and consulted extensively in the U.S. and abroad. He and his wife Rosemarie recently served as senior advisors to the PBS television series, "Eyes on the Prize." Harding also created the outline and served as chairman of the advisory-coordinating committee for "Black Heritage," a series of television programs that appeared on CBS-TV in the late 1960s.

During the past 25 years, Harding has served as director of the Martin Luther King Memorial Center in Atlanta, Ga. (1968-70), director of the Institute of the Black World in Atlanta (1969-74), and has held various research positions and visiting professorships. He holds an M.A. degree and the Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

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MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CONVOCATION AT THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Monday, January 18, 1988

7:30 p.m.

Lisner Auditorium (730 21st St., NW)

Free and open to the public

Award Convocation and Program--Specially commissioned Martin Luther King Jr. medals will be presented to historian and theologian **Vincent Harding**, author of "There is a River," and to a George Washington University student. (The student medal-winner will be announced during the ceremony.) The program will feature remarks by Elizabeth Clark-Lewis, GW's Banneker Visiting Professor of Washington Area Studies. An authority on African-American community development and oral history research, Clark-Lewis will discuss the historical importance of the Martin Luther King Jr. legacy.

Music Festival of Community Choirs--The convocation will feature six area choirs participating in a program of spiritual and gospel music. Choirs performing include: **Anacostia High School; Asbury United Methodist Church; Canaan Baptist Church; First Baptist Church of Washington, DC; Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church; and Ward African, Methodist, Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church.**

Food and Clothing Drive for Washington's Needy--Individuals attending the convocation are asked to bring clothing and non-perishable food donations for distribution to residents of the Barry Farms community in Southeast Washington, DC.

Exhibit of Enlightenment--Examining the history of the civil rights movement, biographical treatments of Dr. King and Afro-American history, the exhibit will feature displays by some of the city's oldest, most prominent churches.

****All activities are free of charge and open to the public. For more information, call (202) 994-8716.**

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